

Pain. Inspirational

1094

A CALL FROM GOD FOR THIS HOUR

BY

W. E. DOUGHTY



*"We thank Thee that Thy Church
unsleeping,
Through all the world her watch is
keeping,
And rests not now by day or night."*



THERE is a God for this hour.
Nothing is impossible with Him
and He wonders still that there
are so few intercessors.

A CALL *from* GOD *for* THIS Hour

By W. E. Doughty

A COMMANDING spiritual opportunity confronts us. The Centenary of Methodist Missions presents the challenge of objectives larger than have yet been presented to any church in modern times. It may well be that this is the outstanding spiritual opportunity of our generation. It is a summons to a mighty people to penetrate anew into the realities of the Christian faith and a call to release on an unprecedented scale the forces needed for the world tasks that confront us.

Will this call from God to undertake a difficult task be a crushing burden to exhaust the Church or wings to lift it to heights before unknown? Will the arm of the Church be palsied by the load or nerved to new strength to lay hold of God? Machinery will

not carry the burden, organization alone will break down. Superhuman forces must be at work. How shall these energies be released? *There must be a new seeking after God in Prayer.* Through prayer alone can these energies be called forth, for prayer is the "most transforming, the most energizing, the most productive" activity of Christian men.

The SECRET of INITIATIVE and ORIGINALITY

THE CALL now facing the Church demands new standards of thinking and action. Old standards are shattered and outgrown.

All the new eras in the expansion of Christianity have been called forth and energized by prayer. New trails are blazed by men who have deep and vitalizing fellowship with God. The prophets and pioneers have all been men to whom prayer was a living reality. A creative new departure in the world is impossible without fresh accessions of Divine power. Out of

“productive hours with God” have come the great spiritual movements that have lifted the world.

Why is prayer the secret of initiative and originality? Because it carries the intercessor back to God, the source of all initiative and originality. What original research is to the scientist, prayer is to the Christian leader. This is the place where visions are born and superhuman strength is found. This hour, when so many millions are in need of God and men are thinking in larger terms than ever before, surely this is the time to hear the voice of God.

RECOVERY *from* SPIRITUAL EXHAUSTION

WELL did the Edinburgh Conference, speaking with scientific accuracy and spiritual penetration, declare “Every grave crisis in the expansion of Christianity which has been successfully met, has been met by the faithfulness of Christ’s disciples in the secret place.”

Every such era has been a time of recovery from spiritual exhaustion. Churches take on new vigor, nations are quickened into life and new highways cast up for the Almighty when men pray aright. The world was sunk in shame when Christ was here in person but His prayer, linked with that of the disciples, resulted in a new era beginning at Pentecost. The world was refreshed and the streams of blessing still flow on.

The story of every great spiritual movement is the history of answered prayer. The leaders of the Wesleyan movement were all men who spent much time with God. The Welsh revival grew out of prayer. The great modern revivals in India, Korea and other parts of the foreign field and the great missionary awakenings at home were all inaugurated in the same way.

The DECISIVE HUMAN FACTOR

THE WHOLE COURSE of the spiritual history of Methodism for the next

fifty years may be determined by the response to this bold and daring Centenary challenge. More tragic than not to receive the millions of money asked for would be the tragedy of not coming into fresh, vital fellowship with Christ. The human pivot on which victory will turn will not be a method or a plan or an organization or a trained staff of workers, but on the volume and quality of the spiritual devotion put into the program.

Mobilize the spiritual forces! This is the heart cry of the great Commander. Enlist the armies of intercessors! This is the hope of victory! Press into and release the measureless resources of the inexhaustible God! Here alone are energies adequate to quicken the Church and revitalize the world. Let every leader of the Church enroll and enlist others in The Fellowship of Intercession until the voice of God shall be carried to the remotest member of the Methodist Church. It is the call to a new crusade. Will you follow to the limit—and beyond!



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